

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

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July 20, 1999

N.L.: 07-2099

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**TO:** California Children's Services Program Administrators, Medical Consultants, and State Children's Medical Services (CMS) Regional Office Staff

**SUBJECT:** INFANT HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM (NHSP) — INFANT HEARING SCREENING PROVIDER STANDARDS

Enclosed are copies of the standards for providers participating in the California NHSP, Chapter 3.42 of the CCS Manual of Procedures. These standards will be published in regulations to be filed, on an emergency basis, in the near future.

The Inpatient Infant Hearing Screening Provider standards are for those CCS-approved hospitals with licensed perinatal services and/or a CCS-approved Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) which will be (1) offering hearing screening to the parents for all newborns delivered in their facility and (2) screening all infants receiving care in the NICU. Hospitals will be certified by the CMS-contracted Hearing Coordination Centers (HCCs) prior to participation in the NHSP. Once certified, the hospital will be able to bill the State for hearing screening services provided to Medi-Cal and CCS-eligible children. The HCCs will be responsible for the certification, a process which will include an on-site visit by HCC professional staff.

The Outpatient Infant Hearing Screening Provider standards are for those providers who will be providing outpatient hearing rescreens on infants who fail the initial inpatient hearing screen or who did not receive the hearing screen while in the CCS-approved hospital for the birth admission. Providers eligible to apply to deliver these services include

- a CCS-approved acute care hospital (for outpatient services);
- a CCS-approved Level 1, 2, or 3 Facility Serving Children with Hearing Impairment (Chapter 3.14);
- or a CCS-approved Type A, B, or C Communication Disorder Center (Chapter 3.40 standards, to be transmitted under separate cover)

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- a health care provider office or facility in which the services are under the supervision of a CCS-paneled audiologist, a paneled pediatrician, a paneled otolaryngologist (ENT)
- a paneled family practice physician
- or an Inpatient Infant Hearing Screening Provider.

Applications for participation as an outpatient hearing screening provider will be reviewed and approved by state CMS staff.

The CMS Branch is planning training sessions for CCS county program staff prior to the initiation of hearing screening in certified hospitals. These sessions would be directed to the role of the CCS program in the identification of children with hearing loss, including the authorization of diagnostic evaluations for infants who have failed the hearing screening and the authorization of on-going audiologic services for those identified with a hearing loss.

If you have any questions, please contact Marian Dalsey, M.D., at (916) 654-0830.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Maridee Gregory" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maridee A. Gregory, M.D., Chief  
Children's Medical Services Branch

Enclosures